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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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GROUP 1
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CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT MOVES TO REINTEGRATE KATANGA

The Congolese central government's authority in Katanga is slowly but steadily increasing. Premier Adoula's minister resident, Joseph Ileo, has established central government control over the Katangan police, customs and immigration, and the Katangan banks. UN and Leopoldville authorities have recovered a large portion of the money taken from the former Katangan National Bank, the Katanga franc is being replaced with the Congo franc, and Union Miniere has begun making foreign exchange payments to the Monetary Council in Leopoldville.

Steps are also being taken to demobilize and integrate the Katangan armed forces. The Katangan commander, General Muke, and 25 of his officers have gone to Leopoldville and taken an oath of allegiance to the central government. Joint UN-Congolese teams have been established throughout Katanga to register Katangan soldiers who want to join the Congo National Army (ANC). Registrations have been coming in slowly, however, and Leopoldville does not intend to take more than 6,000-7,000 carefully screened soldiers in any event. Katangan gendarmes who do not register and are later found with arms will be prosecuted.

To assist in this program, and to establish a firmer grip on the province, Leopoldville continues to push hard to get more ANC troops into South Katanga. Adoula, Ileo, and General Mobutu are increasingly irritated over UN resistance to bringing more ANC troops to Katanga outside the UN command framework. Adoula and Mobutu want to bring in three battalions and insist that ANC forces remain under ANC command. If this problem is not resolved soon, Ileo says he will go to Leopoldville "to straighten it out."

On 5 February Moise Tshombé announced publicly that integration of Katanga had been completed, at least from his side, and left Elisabethville for Northern Rhodesia for eye treatment. He may continue on to Europe. While he may have decided, in view of his uncertain future, to go into voluntary exile, it is doubtful that he has yet given up the idea of playing a political role in the Congo. He has left former foreign minister Kimba in charge.

The future role of Tshombé and his government continues to be a lively issue. Baluba tribal leaders, who were first seeking Tshombé's overthrow, now appear to be willing for him to remain as provincial president in a coalition government including Balubas. They continue to press for a reunited Katanga, eliminating the North and South Katanga provinces created by Leopoldville last July. Voices are still being raised in Leopoldville, however, against a reunified province and against Tshombé's remaining in power.

Interior Minister Kamitatu in particular is suspicious of the Baluba maneuvers; he maintains that a reunified Katanga would dominate the rest of the Congo and sow the seeds for a future secession. Opposition leaders are criticizing Adoula for retaining Tshombé in office. Former Congolese Vice Premier Cristophe Gbenye, a leader of the Lumumbist party, complained to US officials recently that the UN was maintaining Tshombé in power. If the Lumumbists had liberated Katanga, Gbenye said, Tshombé and his gang would be in jail now. Both Gbenye and Joseph Kasongo, another Lumumbist leader, charged that Ileo is a "collaborator" of Tshombé's.

In the area of Leopoldville's domestic politics, Adoula is reported to have "definitely" decided to reconvene Parliament on 4 March as a constituent assembly, and is again thinking of a "sweeping" reshuffle of his government. Either move would give new opportunities for his opponents to attack him. The Lumumbists have said that they intend to do so unless they are included in the government. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)